

The Government of the United States wishes to offer its reply to the Soviet Union Aide Memoire dated 21 April 1958 in which there is charged that an American military jet aircraft violated the Soviet state border in the Far East on 2 March 1958.

As requested by the Soviet Union, the Government of the United States has undertaken and has recently completed an exhaustive investigation of military aircraft activities in the Far East on the date of concern. Such efforts, however, failed to indicate a flight, of the nature indicated, having taken place.

Of particular concern to the United States is the reference made by the Soviet Union to such a flight being attributed to the Lockheed U-2 type aircraft which is currently being utilized abroad in upper atmosphere research studies similar to activities performed under the International Geophysical Year program. The particular aircraft the Soviet Union has selected to target itself upon does not have the capability to perform within the terms described in the Aide Memoire for it is a single engine jet aircraft whose capabilities are known to be exceeded by a number of publicized Soviet aircraft.

It is extremely disturbing to the United States that on each occasion where the sovereign territory of the Soviet Union is violated, whether intentionally, or unintentionally, the incident is automatically attributed to aircraft answering to the direction of the United States.

The charge made by the Soviet Union in this instance refers to carefully verified data, the reliability of which reportedly leaves no room for doubt, that an American aircraft was involved. The Government of the United States would welcome the opportunity to view the data to which reference is made if such will confirm the identity of the particular aircraft charged with this violation.